

The Washington Times

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John M. Harlan.

The completion by Associate Justice John M. Harlan of twenty-five years of service on the highest Federal bench has properly been made the occasion of a generous tribute to this virile and broad-minded jurist's worth. In force of character, in equipment, in the power and balance which come with long experience, Justice Harlan's place is easily first among the judges who now constitute the Supreme Court.

Beginning its twenty-sixth year on December 10, his service far outruns that of any of his junior colleagues. The Chief Justice has but fourteen years on the bench to his credit. Justice Brewer has thirteen, Justice Brown eleven, and Justice Shiras ten. The other four justices, Messrs. White, Peckham, McKenna, and Holmes, are still in their first decade of activity and usefulness—the last named, indeed, having just been formally launched on his Supreme Court career.

Justice Horace Gray, who left the bench last August to die a few months later, could contest in a measure Justice Harlan's claims to leadership and seniority. An older man, he got his judge's commission four years later than Harlan, and these two saw the court gradually renew itself till, with Justice Field's retirement in 1897, they were left the only links in the chain which bound the tribunal of the later nineties with the tribunal of the earlier seventies—the court of Fuller, Brown, Brewer, and White with the court of Waite, Miller, Bradley, and Blatchford.

Now Justice Harlan remains the solitary figure in whom the court's past touches its present—the one judge whose experience runs back a quarter of a century, and whose associations attach him to the men on whose shoulders fell the task of readjusting constitutional theory to the results, accepted and accomplished, of the civil war.

To that task and to other subsequent ones of scarcely less importance Justice Harlan brought a vigorous intellect, an unflagging industry, and a broad and patriotic spirit. His decisions have always borne the stamp of an intense and stalwart personality. Welcome or unwelcome to litigants, no one has ever questioned their inherent and genuine judicial quality.

The tribute paid the veteran jurist by the President, by his associates, by the bar, is an amply merited one. Justice Harlan has consistently lived up to all that is best and clearest in the traditions of his great office. May many years be spared him as the Mentor and the Nestor of the highest Federal Court.

Organize for Relief.

From New York city comes a pitiful story of suffering and death caused by the sudden arrival of cold weather at a time when a fuel famine existed which left the poorer classes virtually helpless in the clutch of the icy blizzard.

The story is one not to be read without emotion. The coal yards in the tenement district were besieged by persons clamoring for what little amounts they were able to purchase. Children carrying scuttles, baskets, and bags were in the miserable throng, pinched and starved with cold. In one instance a mother and child were frozen to death in their room, the little baby clasped in its mother's arms. The situation created by the coal famine is rightly described as one of the most trying crises New York has ever faced.

Naturally, there has been a quick response to the cry for relief, the city's charitable organizations and certain other bodies, together with business firms and individuals, doing all in their power to lessen the present suffering. Wherever coal could be procured it has been procured, and is now either distributed free or offered at greatly reduced prices.

Splendid rescue work is being done, for which New York deserves the highest credit. But how much suffering could have been averted if there had been adequate preparation for this inevitable arrival of severe winter weather! And it was so clearly known that two or three days of blizzard temperature would produce the terrible conditions now witnessed.

The lesson to other cities, equally negligent in the matter of preparation, is too plain to be missed. Washington is among these cities, and the work of winter already felt should emphasize the New York lesson. Local charitable organizations, and all charitably minded citizens should see no time in preparing to help the poor of Washington through what is certain to be one of the most trying periods in the city's history.

All resources for helpful and generally charitable work will be tested to the fullest extent. The sooner the relief forces are recruited to their greatest possible strength and the machinery of relief made ready by effective organization the better the results in the saving of life and the lessening of suffering.

Telegraphic Mistakes.

Brevity may be the soul of wit, and it undoubtedly forms the basis of most telegraphic dispatches. As a rule more trouble has been caused by the desire of a sender of a message to confine himself to the customary ten words than has ever arisen from any other form of petty economy. The writer is very apt to think that the recipient of a telegram knows as much about the matter as he does himself, and the result is that the omission of a few words at two cents each makes the message simply an example of that little knowledge which is proverbially so dangerous a thing.

In such cases the sender of the telegram has only himself to blame. But when the company employe is careless or negligent he has a just cause of complaint, particularly when the dispatch is plainly worded and distinctly written. Whether a company can be held liable in law for the mistakes of its operators is just now the question that is being settled by a suit for damages against the Western Union Telegraph Company, brought by a resident of Greensboro, N. C. It appears that one of the solid citizens of that place, who was unblest with any softening traits of romance or imagination, had taken his son-in-law to a sanitarium in the neighboring town of Salisbury. Here it was discovered that an operation was necessary, and this having been successfully accomplished the fond parent adjourned to the nearest and only office in order to open up telegraphic communication with the anxious ones at home.

There he found the ever-ready yellow slip, and with a pencil carefully engrossed in what might be called "a fair specimen of his best hand-writing" the following message: "Operation performed; patient doing well; return home tonight."

This is clear and concise. A plain statement of facts, which, delivered as sent, would have cheered and encouraged the waiting and expectant wife and mother. But unluckily it seems to have been an off-day for the receiver at Greensboro, and if, as the children say, what goes up, must come down, it was well for that hapless operator that his crown was not in the descending path of what fell from the lips of that astonished household. For it is charged that the message as revised and edited at the local office read: "Operation performed; patient dying; will return home tonight."

Now the "him" in this case smacks rather of what might be called a past pronoun than it does of a purely personal one, and the whole message is suggestive of cracked ice and other gruesome details. Added to this is an inferred, but at the same time indecent, desire for haste that reminds one of the "Salley Gamp" admonition of the hospital nurse to the charity-patient: "Don't talk so much, but go on with your dying." There is, too, at times, a considerable difference between twaddle-dum and twiddle-dee, and the up and doing of the original message bears little resemblance to the down and dying of its alleged copy.

The mother promptly fainted. But the wife, crazed with grief, took the first train to Salisbury only to find her husband in a tranquil sleep. She then became suddenly dispossessed of "the grief that does not speak," and the audible result is a suit for damages on the ground of mental anguish caused by negligence.

THE YEAR IN FINANCE

By HENRY CLEWS.

THE past year has been one of the most eventful ones in the history of American finance. During the first part of the twelve-month the impetus of prosperity was rampant and it was due to the excess of it that the latter part of the year met with its reverse—a reverse that has reduced values by \$750,000,000. If the effect of this reverse had been permitted to follow its cause, naturally it would have come during the fall of last year, when we were made to realize how serious was the corn crop damage, which amounted to almost a national calamity.

Simultaneously came the assassination of President McKinley, which was another national calamity, and following that came the steel strike, which threatened to become a small civil war.

Now these three causes of disaster would have produced deplorable effects at that time had they not been prevented by brute force. The big men connected with railroad reorganizations, and connected with the trust reorganizations, and the big operators allied to both of these interests unfurled their forces and put their broad shoulders under these disasters and bridged over the crisis that was imminent.

It was then that the recent crash should have come; not now. The good effect of a setback then would have been a blow at over-enthusiastic prosperity, and would have had a salutary effect. It would have lessened the extravagance which has been witnessed since then in the tremendous army of tourists to the coronation. The crowds that went abroad at that time feeling that there could be no end to their prosperity at home, fell into excesses and lavish extravagances they never would have dreamed of had they not known that their prosperity had weathered these three most serious disasters. Nothing was too extravagant for them. Purchases for house decoration were rivaled by expensive and useless wardrobes and accompanying excesses of various kinds.

Growing out of these extravagances have come the money troubles of today. The purchases came home and the excessive and extravagant duties had to be paid. And thus our money was taken out of the country and what was spent here went out of circulation and was locked up in the Treasury. This more than anything else was the cause of the shortness of money. People required more and thought they required more than they really did, and borrowed large sums to tide

them over. If this effect had followed the cause at the right time we would now be in comfortable circumstances, and not be loaded down with misgivings. Coming as it did, it has been more or less of a shock to us all. It is a good deal like the airplane announcing some big celestial or terrestrial happening that does not occur at the time mentioned; but is sprung upon us when we are least expecting it.

But the effect of the setback will be wholesome, even as it is, because it will lead to an adjustment, and a speedy one, of the financial situation. It will cause the people to reflect and go a bit slow in the matter and manner of their investments, and not rush into extravagant deals with so much impetuosity.

To tell the truth there are too many organizations of industrial plants and we shall have less in the future because they have come into the hands of the people with such an over-supply that they have had fits of financial indigestion and have been utterly unable heretofore to cope with them.

Wall Street is now separating the sheep from the goats in securities. The railroads possess the full confidence of the speculators and investors because they have gone through fire and water in their endeavors to purge themselves of any semblance of insecurity and unreliability. And these industrials must go through the same test in order to give them a standing among investors.

Fixed charges must be cut down, and this will give the minor securities the chance of dividends and improving ones. Of the four thousand million industrials that have been created during the last few years, a great many must go through the same drastic treatment through which the railroads were forced in 1893-4. When this process has been gone through with the industrials will stand on an equal footing with the railroads and will be just as eagerly sought for as investments of the gilt edge order.

In the meantime the same properties will be dealt in to a more or less extent, subject, of course, to violent fluctuations, and these fluctuations will make the railroads fluctuate, but in a smaller ratio, of course, because they are looked upon as sound and quick securities.

The lesson we are learning is a hard one, but it is inevitable, and once learned, will enable us to keep out of many a financial quagmire in the future. We are certainly better off now than we were before we had learned it. We are better off from a genuine business point of view today than we were one year ago today. But not as well off from the money standpoint.

In the Public Eye.

The refusal of Lord Roberts to pay the fees exacted of him in connection with his honors recalls an anecdote of the late Archbishop of York, who had to pay out fees amounting to nearly \$10,000. When received by Queen Victoria to pay homage upon his elevation to the primacy he said, as he rose from his knees:

"Your majesty is the only official person I have seen since my nomination who has not asked me for a fee." The story sounds somewhat apocryphal. But there is not much doubt that the Archbishop thought something like that, if he did not venture to say it.

President Roosevelt has long wished to own a typical Hudson Bay hatchet. Colonel Turner, the United States consul at Ottawa, has secured from the

station of the Hudson Bay Company at Mattawa, a specimen of this weapon, which is designed to be carried in the belt.

James McNeill Whistler's new painting, "The Little Cardinal," in the exhibition of portraits at the New Gallery, London, is said to be one of his best. It is a picture of a little girl in a brilliant red cap.

M. Helleu, the famous pastel artist of Paris, has arrived in New York. He says that while he has often wished to come to America, the idea of traveling with a picture dealer or other unbecoming companion has deterred him. This time, however, he was fortunate enough to have an ideal traveling companion whom he describes as a devoted friend, better able than anyone else to render the voyage agreeable and straighten out all sorts of difficulties. This friend was John S. Sargent.

"Unconsidered Trifles."

Cool Weather Amusement. "You see, children, this is a puzzle. It is a map of the United States, and you spread it out—so. You must remember that the mines are inexhaustible. Puzzle: Find the coal."

Modern Wisdom. Time was when the family skeleton was sedulously kept in the closet, even at house-cleaning time; but the modern woman takes him out and studies anatomy and articulation from the bones.

A Disastrous Excursion. "What became of all those doctors that went on a hunting trip in the woods?" "Sad case. You see, they hadn't anybody to operate on except each other, and they all died."

ODD HAPPENINGS OF THE PASSING HOUR.

Woes of a Bashful Man.

BASHFUL MEN get into all sorts of trouble owing to their bashfulness. The other night an Oxford county (Me.) young fellow, who is timid with women, plucked up courage to try and kiss his sweetheart at the door, after escorting her home from a party. But, being bashful, he stumbled and fell off the front door step, pitched into a rose bush, got his head entangled in the trellis, and his feet in the wire netting; jammed his shoulders between the steps and the foundations of the house, and had to be rescued by the girl's father, brother, and uncle, whom she called to her assistance. Now, who in the world but a bashful man could have developed all these woes from a simple attempt to kiss a girl—and then not get the kiss, after all?

Home Life in Chicago.

THERE are so many and various petitions for divorce always being filed in Chicago that it is difficult for a person to do anything really original in this line. Yet George R. Conover has attempted it in asking release from his wife for the reason that she is a physical culture teacher and develops her muscles by walloping him around what might otherwise be a happy home. She hurls him across the room, he says, smashes him with both hands, sits down on him until he is almost suffocated, and sometimes even uses a club on him. It's a pity this Mr. Conover hasn't more of the typical Chicago "strenuousness" in his makeup—a campaign of retaliatory pugilistics might avert the necessity for divorce.

Life's Uncertainties on the Missouri.

PERSONS living on the fickle and irresponsible Missouri River never know exactly where they are "at"—or, rather, where they will be from one day to another. Last Thursday night, for instance, the Missouri town of Nebraska City, Neb., stood on the banks of the Missouri, the waters flowing by the very doors of the houses. The next night the town was three miles distant from the river, which had suddenly changed its course, and many farms that had until then been in Iowa found themselves switched over into Nebraska. These lightning changes are confusing and, doubtless, annoying, but it must be said in all fairness that existence never grows monotonous on the Missouri. That stream has the knack of keeping folks guessing to a supreme degree.

The Cartoonist's Disadvantages.

"Mr. Punch" has discovered the fact that the only places where the cartoonist and caricaturist are safe are Great Britain and the United States. In France, he goes on to say, the cartoonist is likely to be challenged to a duel. In Germany there are laws about lese majeste. The Turkish caricaturist, if there is any such being, lived, on the average, one week after taking up the profession. In China the fanmaker is liable to dismemberment, the occasion being made a public holiday, with fireworks in the evening.

An Opinion of "The Little White Bird."

A. T. Quiller-Couch has paid the prettiest compliment yet given to Mr. Barrie's latest book, "The Little White Bird." He says: "Though many children may believe it, it does not look to me like a book written for children and it looks even less like a book written for grown-ups. You may say, and plausibly, that it was written by a contrite fairy for fairy changelings; but I should prefer to call it a book written by the child inside Mr. Barrie for the children we used to be."

A Triple Personality.

The work of Theodosia Garrison, John Winwood and Miss McCrea Pickering has attracted some attention from magazine readers of late, not so much, however, as it might have done had the public known that the three writers were one and the same person.

A Dire Development.

It is reported that the works of Bensen are now in process of translation into Japanese and what the Oriental mind will make of them it is beyond the power of Occidental imagination to conceive.

Statesmen and Their Ways.

Tom Watson Comes to Life.

Up from the cotton fields of sunny Georgia comes the pleasing intelligence that the Hon. Thomas E. Watson is to resurrect himself from political obscurity and again enter politics. Among those whose memory treasures the trifles of time the Hon. Tom will be remembered as the man who declined to quit in the campaign of '96. He was the glittering spectacular half of the dual tail of the Bryan Presidential kite, and persisted in so remaining until the collapse of that wind-blown tail. Since he failed in his effort to become the presiding officer of the Senate, and since the disintegration of the Populist party, Mr. Watson has remained much under cover. The latest from Georgia, however, is that he has been seeking an inlet to a Democratic primary in an effort to re-establish himself as a member of that party. Since his rehabilitation Tom's first effort to draw attention to himself, and to remind the forgetful public of his existence, is a declaration that he is unalterably opposed to the renomination in 1904 of his erstwhile running mate, the Hon. William Jennings Bryan.

Will Oppose Bryan.

He has declared that he will oppose any such action on the part of the Democratic party in national convention assembled, and is willing, if need be, to take the stump against the distinguished citizen of Lincoln in the preliminary canvass. There are those who believe that Mr. Watson will be given valuable assistance in his efforts to prevent the nomination of Mr. Bryan, and that the task which he has started out to accomplish will after all not be so burdensome as he seems to imagine, and will not in fact have to be borne by a single individual. Just what the would-be Vice President's motive for re-entering politics is has not yet been discovered. Affairs of state were moving along quite satisfactorily while he gathered his cotton and plucked the succulent watermelon far from the troubled arena of politics, and ceased trying to right all social wrongs. There is a suspicion abroad, however, that Watson seeks a return to Congress, where he may again bask in the sunlight of glorious publicity, and experience a realization of the fact that it is better to be a Democratic Congressman than a Populistic agitator.

The Kansas Senatorship.

Out in bleeding Kansas the contest for the Senatorial seat now held by the Hon. William A. Harris waxeth warm, and, despite cold waves and blizzards, the temperature about the Statehouse at Topeka will remain high until the fight is ended. Just now it is increased by the vast volume of superheated atmosphere which is engendered regarding the chances of the various aspirants. There are at least five candidates who presume to be confident that they will wear the Senatorial toga after March 4. There is the swarthy Curtis, who prides himself upon the fact that he is the only member of Congress through whose veins there flows the dark rich blood of the American aborigine. He is as certain of election as he is that sunflowers bloom in Kansas. Then there is the Hon. Chester I. Long, who proudly carries at his belt the political scalp of his former fellow-townsmen, the Hon. Jeremiah Simpson. He is so certain of his own success that he no longer smiles when his colleagues playfully address him as "Senator," but takes it as a matter of course. Nevertheless, he has hastened out to the scene of the conflict, having been summoned by his lieutenants, who regard the situation as approaching the stage of seriousness.

Chances of a Dark Horse.

Two other members of the Sunflower delegation in Congress also aspire to the Senate—the Hon. Justin DeWitt Bowersock and the Hon. William Alexander Calderhead—each entertaining the belief that as an opaque equine his chances of winning the race are sufficient to cause

the Senatorial bookmakers to go into bankruptcy. Still another candidate in the field is Governor Stanley, who believes that it is but a step from the Statehouse to the Senate chamber.

Looking at the race through the field glasses at this distance, it appears that Charlie Curtis and Chester Long are about neck and neck as they turn into the stretch, but those who are up on form and are able to pass judgment upon the best staying qualities of the two declare that Long will come under the wire ahead of his competitor, and there is no second money. The Legislature will not reach the matter until next month, and there is little prospect that the Republican caucus will agree upon a candidate on the first ballot. It will doubtless require a number of days of balloting, owing to the fact that strength in the Legislature is scattered among a half dozen aspirants.

Jerry Simpson's Apples.

The Hon. Jerry Simpson, no longer the homeless statesman of Medicine Lodge, but now the prosperous pomologist, horticulturist, and scientific gentleman farmer of the Valley of the Pecos, has contributed a bag of luscious red apples to the United States Senate, just to remind the solons as they munch their midday lunch that New Mexico desires favorable consideration in the matter of Statehood. Long ago Jerry sheathed his bayonet and grasped his horny hands upon the plowshare and the hoe, tilling the irrigated soil of New Mexico until it has brought forth such a harvest of fruit as no New England orchard ever grew. Diligently Jerry has been getting close to Mother Earth; but this is not all. It is said that beneath all he is laying a plan to return to Washington, not as a Delegate, not as a Representative, but forsooth as a Senator from New Mexico when that Territory shall have been admitted to the sisterhood of States and entitled to two members in the upper house of Congress. In this fact the ungrateful find the cause for Jerry having given away his big red apples. True, New Mexico does not at this time, even should she be admitted, offer a promising field for an itinerant politician of Democratic-Populist tendencies, but the picturesque statesman-farmer at present abiding in the Valley of the Pecos overcame a much more adverse majority than confronts him in New Mexico when first he came to Congress from Medicine Lodge, and he hopes to repeat the performance, only with a higher office in the prospective. There have been men of far less ability and worth in the Senate than Jerry Simpson, and some of them wore silken hose, too.

To Desert Michigan.

Representative H. C. Smith, of the Second district of Michigan, comes from a section where the two-term habit for officeholders is ingrained. It applies with just as much effective vigor to the county offices and township offices as it does to the Legislature of the State and to the Congressmen. All must step aside after they have served two terms. Smith has had his two terms, and although he made a valiant effort to break the rule it was of no avail. There are more influential and respectable "Laa beens" in his district than in any other district in the United States. A majority of the voters at one time held office or are now in office. Mr. Smith decided that he did not want to join this class, and therefore will move to Baltimore upon the expiration of his term to become the general attorney of the Washab. This means that he will be one of the Eastern representatives of the Gould interests. The two-term habit drove him out of his State to make a fresh start in another. The Second district can doubtless find as good a thing of service cuts more figure than anything else in Congress, Iowa, with only eleven Representatives, has nearly twice as many rural free delivery routes as any other State.

A PUBLIC SCHOOL ABUSE.

To the Editor of The Times.

Sir: With the thermometer registering zero weather and the streets and schoolhouse yards exhaling a constant stream of chilling dampness, it is plain to anyone that it is not only imprudent, but cruel, to drive the smaller children at recess from the warm schoolrooms out into the icy air. To leave a warm room after the pores of the skin are well dilated by the heat, and to stand around with a "Klondike" zephyr pouring its depressing flood on the back of the neck and between the shoulders, is simply inviting a severe attack of bronchitis or pneumonia—even with grown people of abundant vitality. But it is doubly dangerous in the case of small children in the lower school grades.

INDIAN "BUCKS" AT WORK.

Persons who enjoy a spectacle in direct proportion to its rarity may well make an excursion to northern Nebraska just now for the sake of seeing an almost unique sight—that of large numbers of Indian "bucks" engaged in honest labor for their livelihood. The story is told in the "New York World" as follows:

Indians in large numbers are going to work along the railroads in northern Nebraska because of the self-supporting order of the Interior Department, among those who applied for work today is the son of the famous Sitting Bull, the most noted chief of the Sioux in American history. Young Sitting Bull handled his shovel with a staid and dignity that was impressive.

PRINCE NOW A STOCK BROKER.

There has always been a sort of "aristocracy of trade" atmosphere attaching to the stock brokerage business, and it is evident, from the following item from London in the "New York American" that the stock exchange is to be more than ever the "blue blood" headquarters for the world of commerce:

Prince Francis of Teck has finally been permitted to join the brokerage firm of Pamure, Gordon & Co. Mr. Gordon, before his death, was a great figure on the stock exchange. His

ideas varied over a wide range. At one time he had a passion for ironers, and when he went to America for a year he had one pair a day in his personal kit, with over 200 pairs thrown in. He was the only man who ever devoted an entire chapter in a serious book of travel to the story of the loss and subsequent recovery of his favorite pair of breeches. He had 1,100 pockets.

Prince Francis will not appear upon the floor of the exchange, but will merely buy a seat, and, being a brother of the Princess of Wales, it is expected that this will influence business and draw a long list of royal and aristocratic speculators.

W. W. P.

Washington, Dec. 10, 1912.

IN HOOSIERDOM.

Washingtonians will feel deep interest in the following items reprinted verbatim from a daily newspaper published not far from Terre Haute, Ind.: Maggie Newcomb came home from Hume to spend Thanksgiving with home folks. Sidney Ramsey enjoyed his Thanksgiving eating dinner with his best girl in Paris, returning home Friday afternoon. Clarence Bonner and wife spent a few days in Indianapolis last week returning Friday evening. The children played with their grandparents B. B. Tucker and wife. B. A. Dusterbier's new house is fully completed and they are thoroughly established in it. It adds very much to the beauty of that immediate vicinity. J. Ross Grace was at Robinson, Ill., Thanksgiving day attending to the sale of some property there and shaking hands with old friends. He saw Len Bonner and found him in usual health.